grants and benefits envisaged in the Policy are applicable to all Project Affected Families.

Amount for Maulana Azad Education Foundation

2218. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount sanctioned for 'Maulana Azad Education Foundation' is not adequate to help the deserving proposals, sent to the Foundation;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to increase the amount in big way; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (c) In order to better meet the requirements for financial assistance sought from the Maulana Azad Education Foundatin, its corpus found was enhanced from Rs. 70.01 to Rs. 100 crores during the year 2005-06. Interest rates being low, the amount needs to be increased sufficiently. It has however, been decided in principle to double the corpus fund of the Foundation to Rs. 200 crores.

Commission for development of minorities

2219. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Commission to study the conditions of Minorities in the country and for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the terms of reference of the Commission and its composition;

(c) whether the commission has submitted its reports;

(d) if so, the details thereof including its features and the follow-up steps being taken to implement the recommendations; and

(e) if not, the time by when the report is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have constituted the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities *vide* Resolution dated 29th October, 2004.

(b) The terms and reference of the Commission are:

(i) to suggest criteria for identification of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities;

(ii) to recommend measures for welfare of socially and economically backward sections among religious and linguistic minorities, including reservation in education and Government employment;

(iii) to suggest the necessary constitutional, legal and administrative modalities as required for the implementation of their recommendations, and to present a Report of their deliberations and recommendations.

Addition

(IV) to give its recommendations on the issues raised in W.P. 180/04 and 94/05 filed in the Supreme Court and in certain High Courts relating to para 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, in the context of ceiling of 50% reservation as also the modalities of inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes.

Composition of the Commission:

The commission consists of a Chairperson, three Members and a Member-Secretary.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The question does not arise. The report is likely to take some time as the Commission is in the process of collecting data, visiting States/Union Territories, organizing Workshops on religious and linguistic minorities etc.

Schemes for welfare of minorities

2220. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being implemented for welfare of minorities in Punjab;